

There is another Lantos legacy. As a parent of 2 daughters, he took great pride in their 17 incredible grandchildren, all of whom are fulfilling the highest expectations of their grandfather. Every year the Lantos Christmas card displayed a growing family of beautiful and gifted children who obviously gave them considerable pride and joy.

In the Congress, Tom Lantos had no peers. He was respected by leaders of both political parties and the undisputed authority on foreign policy. Most newly elected Congressmen avoid the Foreign Affairs Committee because there is little that can help in their constituencies, but for Tom Lantos it was always about foreign relations. Indeed he ranks, alongside Lee Hamilton, as one of the two finest chairmen who ever presided over the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

For those who had the privilege of knowing Tom Lantos, there is even more legacy. His eloquence and charm, personal loyalty to family and friends, his diplomatic grace in meeting world leaders, left one with the impression of being near a truly great leader and genuine statesman of the world. It was a privilege to have known Tom Lantos.

#### INTRODUCING TECHNOLOGIES FOR RESTORING USERS' SECURITY AND TRUST (TRUST) IN HEALTH INFORMATION ACT

##### HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, the development of a nationwide interoperable health information infrastructure holds tremendous promise for improving patient care, reducing medical errors and lowering costs. Today's health care system needs to be transformed to improve health care quality, safety and affordability, and interoperable health information networks can play an important role in this transformation.

At the same time, without sufficient privacy and security safeguards, such electronic systems could turn the dream of integrated, seamless health IT networks into a nightmare for consumers, reducing the likelihood that patients and providers will embrace and utilize such systems. If we fail to require strong privacy and security standards now, during the early stages of development of nationwide interoperable health IT systems, we run the risk that Americans' medical secrets will be extremely vulnerable to being lost or stolen from these systems, whose weak privacy and security safeguards will be an open invitation to identity thieves, fraudsters and others seeking unauthorized access.

The great Irish poet William Butler Yeats famously wrote that "In dreams begins responsibility." The dream of a nationwide, seamless, effective health IT infrastructure certainly is enticing. Let us hope that we can realize this dream in the future. Today Congress has a responsibility to ensure that patients' personal medical secrets are not put at risk in the process.

According to a report released last year by the Government Accountability Office, GAO, the Department of Health and Human Services, HHS, has taken some steps to identify solutions for protecting patient privacy in health IT systems, but HHS has "not yet defined an overall approach for integrating its

various privacy-related initiatives and addressing key privacy principles, nor has it defined milestones for integrating the results of these activities." (GAO-07-400T) Over the past 3 years, repeated breaches of electronic systems containing Americans' Social Security numbers, addresses and other sensitive personal information have reinforced the need for strong data safeguards for Americans' medical records. According to Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, a non-profit consumer organization, more than 218 million data records of U.S. residents have been exposed due to security breaches since January 2005.

I am pleased that Representative RAHM EMANUEL is joining me in introducing the Technologies for Restoring Users' Security and Trust, TRUST, in Health Information Act. The TRUST Health Information Act promotes development of a nationwide interoperable health IT infrastructure that improves patient care, reduces costs and protects the privacy and security of Americans' personal medical information. The Trust Act contains provisions to encourage the development of health IT networks through grants and standard-setting processes while also ensuring that patients' medical records will be protected by strong privacy and security safeguards. For example, the TRUST Act:

Empowers patients to keep their medical records out of health IT databases unless they first give their consent;

Requires patients to be notified if the systems that contain their health information is breached and their information is exposed;

Mandates the use of data security safeguards such as encryption and other technologies that render the information unreadable to individuals who are not authorized to access it;

Authorizes grant funding to enable the purchase and enhance the use of qualified health IT systems; and

Establishes a public-private partnership to make recommendations concerning health IT standards, criteria for the electronic exchange of personal health information and related purposes to encourage the creation of a nationwide interoperable health information technology infrastructure.

Patient privacy and security protections are enablers of, not impediments to, successful nationwide interoperable health IT systems. Only after patients have confidence in these protections will they trust their sensitive medical information to such systems.

The Trust Act is supported by Patient Privacy Rights, Microsoft Corporation, the American Psychoanalytic Association, American Association of Practicing Psychiatrists and the National Association of Social Workers.

#### RECOGNIZING JAMES BENJAMIN FARMER

##### HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize James Benjamin Farmer, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 6,

and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Benjamin has been active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Benjamin has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. For his Eagle Scout Project, Benjamin renovated a room that now serves as a Sunday School Classroom at First Baptist Church in Kinston, NC.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending James Benjamin Farmer for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### SUNSET MEMORIAL

##### HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. FRANKS. Madam Speaker, I stand once again before this body with another Sunset Memorial.

It is February 14, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand—just today. That is more than the number of innocent American lives that we lost on September 11th, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,806 days since the tragic judicial fiat called *Roe v. Wade* was handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of our own children.

Some of them, Madam Speaker, cried and screamed as they died, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over their vocal cords instead of air, we couldn't hear them. And all of them had at least four things in common.

They were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone. Each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each of their mothers, whether she realizes it immediately or not, will never be the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever.

Yet even in the full glare of such tragedy, this generation clings to blindness and invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims to date, those yet unborn.

Madam Speaker, perhaps it is important for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves again of why we are really all here.

Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government."

Madam Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here. It is our sworn oath. The phrase in the 14th amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says: "No state shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law."

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is the declaration, not the casual notion, but the declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed